

Planning Notes

Location: Sharon Springs Fire House

Date: August 13, 2007

Time: 6:30pm-8:30pm

Purpose: Comprehensive Plan Public Meeting

Present: Ray Parsons, Bernadetta Vrooman, Debora Cross, Robert Spohn, Gene Cechnicki, Pam Tichy Brian Fleury, Lillian Bruno, and Rebecca Platel

Public: Several members of the community

Absent: Lori Nolfo

Notes:

Discussion regarding Power point presentation: The power point presentation discussed the definition and purpose of a Comprehensive Plan. The presentation also discussed the process of a Comprehensive Plan. They discussed what was in a Comprehensive Plan: History, Existing Conditions, Maps, Goals and Objectives. The public was introduced to the Comprehensive Plan Committee and were informed when meetings were held. There was a continuance of the importance of public input and that this document represents the people of the Town of Sharon. There was discussion that there will be 2 public hearings and a survey will be distributed in the coming months for more public input. There was discussion that the last Comprehensive Plan was in 1974 and a lot has changed since this date.

Discussion of SWOT Analysis: There was discussion explaining the purpose of a SWOT analysis and an explanation of the definitions of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. The Public was then asked for there input.

Strengths:

- Historic District
- Historical Perspective and that draw that this brings
- Mineral Waters-there are 4 types of mineral water
- Sharon has one of the 2 mineral fountains in New York State
- Open Space

- Agricultural Space
- Route 20 and the Scenic Byway
- Vast abundance of employable people and willing to work
- Empire Zone designation for the Village
- Excellent highway system
- Proximity to urban areas (crossroads locations)
- Excellent fire and EMS services
- Close proximity to healthcare
- Historically legal gambling/casinos
- Planning and Zoning system in place
- Support of municipal Board to address issues
- Small, public school system
- Clean environment
- Quiet, peaceful
- Public services
- Road/services
- Tourism
- Healthy, rural nature
- Geology
- Library
- Scenery

Weaknesses:

- Community Cooperation
- Lack of municipal cooperation
- Small school size
- Village infrastructure
- Lack of consistent code enforcement
- Lack of local police enforcement
- Lack of youth recreational services
- Lack of a community park
- Preparation for change/growth
- Sewer/Wells
- Lack of telecommunication/technology
- Lack of cooperation with the school and community

Opportunities:

- Current retail growth
- Empire Zone
- Niche farming in agricultural farmlands
- New businesses
- Historical preservation
- Middle of everywhere
- Tourism from overflow of Cooperstown
- Bassett Hospital in Cobleskill and Cooperstown

- Overflow of Mohawk Valley Corridor
- Population development due to Albany
- Increase in housing
- The Spa development help with local area businesses

Threats:

- New Ideas
- Rapid, unmanaged development
- Overdevelopment
- Possibility of Wal-Mart leaving
- Taxes
- Change of tax base
- Uncertainty of the future population/gentrification
- Sprawl
- Uneven economic development

After this process took place, residents were asked to place colored coordinated dots on the three most important topics in each category.

Residents were thanked for there participation and were invited to keep participating in this process because it is the Town of Sharon's Comprehensive Plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm